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QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In resolution 46/73 B of 11 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-seventh session and to the Committee on Information at its fourteenth session on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the resolution.

2. The following documents related to topics covered by the resolution were submitted to the Committee on Information at its fourteenth session, held from 30 March to 16 April 1992:

(a) Report on the activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (A/AC.198/1992/2);

(b) Report on the implementation of a system-wide information programme for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/AC.198/1992/3);

(c) Report on the United Nations information centres in 1991: allocation of resources and host government assistance (A/AC.198/1992/4).

3. The Under-Secretary-General for Public Information provided additional information in several statements delivered to the Committee.

4. The deliberations of the Committee on Information are reflected in its report to the General Assembly. 1/ As in the past, the present report avoids, to the extent possible, repetition of the material contained in the reports submitted to the Committee. It covers mainly items not considered by the

Committee, or updates the information contained in the reports referred to above.

5. The present report focuses essentially on the special activities and products of the Department of Public Information (DPI). It therefore does not cover in detail the contents of regular publications and radio and television programmes, such as Perspective, UN in Action, World Chronicle, Notes for Speakers and DPI/NGO Briefing Summaries, which disseminate information on a continuing basis on the range of issues dealt with by the United Nations.

II. COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

6. In paragraph 1 (b) (i) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that DPI cooperated more regularly with UNESCO, especially at the working level, with a view to maximizing the contribution of the Department to the efforts of that Organization.

7. During the reporting period, the Department has pursued consultations with UNESCO, through its International Programme for the Development of Communication, on the implementation of projects proposed by the Seminar on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press, that had been jointly organized by the Department and UNESCO and held at Windhoek in 1991.

8. Also, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department joined UNESCO in organizing a seminar on promoting an independent and pluralistic Asian media, to be held at Almaty from 5 to 9 October 1992. Some 80 publishers, editors, radio and television producers, media investors and others are expected to participate in workshops and in the general debate. The Seminar is to conclude with the identification of areas to be considered for priority assistance and the preparation of a list of specific projects for implementation.

III. COOPERATION WITH THE NEWS AGENCIES OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

9. In paragraph 1 (b) (ii) of resolution 46/73 B, the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that DPI enhanced its cooperation with news agencies of and in the developing countries, in particular, the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, the Eco-Pool of the News Agencies of Non-Aligned Countries and the Broadcasting Organization of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as with other news agencies and intergovernmental and regional organizations.

10. During the reporting period, the Department continued its cooperation with the Pool of News Agencies of Non-Aligned Countries by providing the news agency TANJUG with daily news items on a variety of economic, social, environmental and other priority issues of concern to the United Nations, in accordance with the 1989 agreement reached with that news agency.

IV. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

11. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 46/73 B, the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that the Department continued to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to international peace and security.

12. In that connection, the Department, in cooperation with the Office of Conference Services, coordinated the production and distribution of the Secretary-General's report of 17 June 1992, entitled "An agenda for peace" (A/47/277-S/24111), in booklet form in all the official languages (DPI/1247). The report was rapidly disseminated world wide in cooperation with the network of United Nations information centres, as well as through the more than 1,300 non-governmental organizations associated with the Department. The text was also translated into German by the United Nations Information Service in Vienna and into Japanese by the Information Centre in Tokyo. Highlights of the report were prepared by a number of United Nations information centres and translated into Czech, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, Tagalog and Urdu.

13. Following the publication of "An agenda for peace", the Department organized interviews with the Secretary-General and top United Nations officials and conducted a series of background briefings for the press. In that connection, in order to ensure a more effective world-wide distribution of major policy statements by the Secretary-General among national news organizations and non-governmental organizations, the Department has prepared a set of guidelines for use by United Nations information centres and field offices of UNDP.

14. The Department recently produced a pamphlet, in all official languages, containing the text of the Declaration on Fact-finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security. In addition, the reference paper entitled "United Nations Security Council resolutions relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait" was updated (DPI/1104/Rev.3).

15. "Regional Conflicts: Threats to World Peace and Progress" was the theme of the 1992 Annual NGO Conference, sponsored by DPI and held from 9 to 11 September 1992. The Conference examined the causes, dynamics and consequences of regional conflicts, reviewed the central role of the United Nations in disarmament, peace-keeping and peacemaking and addressed the important role of non-governmental organizations in conflict resolution and humanitarian assistance. The Conference drew over 1,000 non-governmental organization representatives from nearly 60 Member States. A summary report of the Conference proceedings will be issued before the end of 1992.

16. The Department provided radio coverage of the International Conference on Yugoslavia, which took place in London from 26 to 28 August 1992. Arrangements were made with the United Nations Information Centre in London to feed the Department's Radio Service with on-line coverage of the statements made by the Secretary-General, the President of the European Economic

Community and other speakers at the plenary meetings. The audio material received was used in the news bulletins and round-ups by all regional units, as well as in "The Blue Helmets", the special weekly segment on peace-keeping.

V. WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

17. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 46/73 B, the Secretary-General was called upon to ensure that the Department continued to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to disarmament.

18. The Department has undertaken a range of activities to promote the objectives of the World Disarmament Campaign. Disarmament-related events, such as the observance of the 1991 Disarmament Week, the proceedings of the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, as well as the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly, were covered in a number of press releases and in the UN Chronicle.

19. In addition, several special in-depth radio programmes were devoted to the issue of disarmament, namely: "Disarmament: challenge to humanity"; "Africa: a nuclear-weapon-free zone - transforming a declaration into a legally binding treaty"; "Promoting transparency in international transfer of conventional arms"; "South Africa's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty"; and "Strengthening the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency". Moreover, the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme was featured in the monthly radio magazine UN Africa.

20. During the reporting period, DPI, in cooperation with the Office of Disarmament Affairs, produced a disarmament poster entitled "We have a choice" (DPI/1146) and prepared two United Nations Focus articles on the work of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (DPI/1239 and Rev.1). "Hide and seek in Iraq", the United Nations video documentary devoted to the work of the Special Commission in Iraq, was broadcast on 26 May 1992 simultaneously on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's English and French networks. The British Broadcasting Corporation has also acquired the video. A 30-minute version is being distributed to television stations throughout the world.

21. In April 1992, the Department organized a non-governmental organization briefing on "Nuclear non-proliferation and the verification system", which some 200 non-governmental organization representatives attended. In addition, from September 1991 to May 1992, DPI organized 24 briefings and speaking engagements for a variety of groups on the subject of disarmament.

22. In connection with the 1992 Disarmament Week, the Department is planning to produce a radio documentary entitled "Disarmament in the post-cold war era".

VI. PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

23. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 46/73 B, the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that the Department continued to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to peace-keeping operations.

24. The media's increasing focus on the United Nations role in peace-keeping and peacemaking has necessitated expanding the scope of the support provided by the Department to the Secretary-General in his relations with the press. A flexible communication network, set up during the Iraq/Kuwait conflict, has been effectively used to keep the press continuously informed about the efforts of the Secretary-General and various United Nations agencies, bodies and operations aimed at the peaceful settlement of conflicts, particularly in such areas of international tension as Cambodia, Somalia and Yugoslavia.

25. The Department, in close cooperation with the relevant substantive offices, continued to lend its full support to peace-keeping and other political missions through its information products and programme proposals. It updated its policy paper "Standards for the information component of peace-keeping and other political missions", which sets out a general operational framework for planning and implementing such programmes.

26. For global dissemination, it also periodically updated its Information Notes on all ongoing missions, issued a background note on peace-keeping operations (PS/DPI/15/Rev.1), and issued United Nations Focus features relating to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Work is in progress on a "United Nations peace-keeping" booklet, which would reflect, among other things, developments since the last publication of The Blue Helmets, in August 1990. Other information materials produced during the reporting period include a booklet entitled "Agreements on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict" (DPI/1180), as well as a press kit (DPI/1217) and brochure (DPI/1218) on UNTAC, and the "El Salvador agreements: the path to peace" booklet (DPI/1208).

27. As part of its efforts to disseminate information relating to the priority areas of peace-keeping and peacemaking, in June 1992 the Department introduced a new radio segment entitled "The Blue Helmets" into its weekly radio news-magazine programmes. The segment is produced in all official languages.

28. Video teams have been sent to Angola, El Salvador and Yugoslavia to obtain footage for the production of UN in Action on United Nations peace-keeping operations. Recently, a United Nations video producer reported live from UNPROFOR for a United Nations contribution to the CNN World Report, a weekly programme that is seen in some 90 countries.

29. The Department is producing an educational video and teaching guide on peace-keeping and peacemaking in the series About the United Nations in English, French and Spanish.

30. The Department has assisted the Military History Quarterly on a special section on United Nations peace-keeping for the autumn 1992 edition, as well as on a supplement on the subject. The Department is also producing a wall chart on United Nations peace-keeping for world-wide distribution.

VII. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO DECOLONIZATION AND THE SITUATION IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

31. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 46/73 B, the Department was requested to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to decolonization and the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the light of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

32. In pursuance of that mandate, the Department has continued to implement the programme of activities developed to publicize the inalienable right of the people of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly's 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. As part of that programme, the Department actively pursued the dissemination of a booklet produced in 1991 containing the profiles of the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories under the title of Decolonization: the task ahead (DPI/1109).

33. Within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Department also continued to disseminate another booklet, Teaching about decolonization, accompanied by a video. Both the booklet and the video were issued in English as part of the About the United Nations educational series.

VIII. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

34. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 46/73 B, DPI was requested to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to human rights.

35. The Department has prepared a public information programme to promote the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held at Vienna in June 1993. The flame logo identified with the United Nations programme on human rights will be used as the logo on all public information products for the Conference.

36. The main elements of the programme for the Conference include an illustrated brochure and a multi-colour poster, using the slogan "Keep the flame alive", in all official languages; a print public service announcement based on the poster, to be produced and distributed in late 1992 (English); a press information kit, to be produced by the end of 1992 and distributed in time for Human Rights Day, 10 December 1992 (English, French and Spanish); a series of background notes to be issued periodically within the United Nations

Focus series, six to eight of which will be included in the press kit (English, French and Spanish); special coverage of the issues before the Conference in the UN Chronicle in all official languages and in Development Forum (English, French and Spanish), beginning in the fourth quarter of 1992; a special edition of the publication Notes for Speakers, to be produced in late 1992 for distribution in early 1993 (English, French and Spanish); and reprints of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the official languages of the United Nations and in selected local languages, as well as reprints of other international human rights instruments.

37. Plans for the audio-visual components of the information programme include a series of special radio feature documentaries in all official languages and other languages, to be produced within the Perspective series during the fourth quarter of 1992 for distribution beginning in January 1993; four or more segments of the television programme UN in Action, to be produced for use on the CNN World Report; and two or more 30-minute programmes in the video panel discussion series World Chronicle, to include interviews with leading personalities in the field of human rights.

38. Local information programmes, to be carried out by United Nations information centres, include the organization of national seminars, panel discussions and exhibits, and the reproduction of information materials into local languages.

39. In the About the United Nations series, DPI has produced an educational video and teaching guide in English, French and Spanish that focuses on the rights of the child.

40. DPI is also assisting the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in publicizing its activities. In particular, a special press outreach was undertaken to promote the launch of a series of emergency appeals during the summer, including the production of special press releases, television and radio programmes.

41. A special promotional campaign has been developed for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People (1993). For the launch of the Year, on Human Rights Day, 10 December 1992, the Department is organizing a special event to be held at Headquarters, in cooperation with the NGO Committee on the Year, the Centre for Human Rights and a number of United Nations agencies. In addition, a press kit (combined with the kit for the World Conference on Human Rights) will be available for the Day. A poster and a brochure describing the aims and purposes of the Year were issued in September in all official languages.

IX. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO WOMEN AND THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY

42. In resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (b) (iii), the Department was called upon to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to the advancement of the status of women and their role in society. In that connection, the Department continues to collaborate closely with the Division for the Advancement of Women and is actively involved in the inter-agency discussions concerning the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies and preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in 1995. The Department, in cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women, has prepared a draft public information strategy for promoting the objectives of the Conference.

43. A 100-page illustrated book, Women: challenges to the year 2000 (DPI/1134), was produced by the Department in 1992 (in English, French and Spanish) as part of a world-wide educational campaign to increase awareness of the obstacles encountered in implementing the Forward-looking Strategies. Both the book and an accompanying brochure and poster have been widely distributed. A series of feature articles on issues relating to women continues to be produced and distributed by the Department in English, French and Spanish. These are often reprinted in the media and used in newsletters of United Nations information centres and services and in non-governmental organization publications. The Department also continues to produce the weekly radio programme, Women, in English and bi-monthly programmes in Arabic, French and Spanish. These programmes are distributed to about 400 radio stations world wide.

44. The Department has also produced material on such topics as traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, and human rights and the family. A feature article discussing the relationship between ageing, disability and gender is being included in each press kit for the special meetings of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly on these issues.

X. ACTIVITIES ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

45. Pursuant to resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (b) (iii), in which DPI is requested to continue to disseminate information on the problems of economic and social development, the Department is working closely with the new Department of Economic and Social Development to develop a public information strategy to help promote its activities.

46. DPI organized the press launch of two recent major publications, the World Economic Survey and the World Investment Report. They were introduced to the international press at Headquarters through press briefings and a press luncheon, as well as a series of press conferences organized by United Nations information centres around the world. Media coverage was excellent, with articles appearing in leading international economic and financial newspapers, as well as on wire services and radio broadcasts.

47. During the reporting period, the Department has also pursued activities on a number of social issues. "Social agenda #6", a leaflet containing information on United Nations social development programmes, was issued in English, French and Spanish and distributed in April 1992 (DPI/1177).

48. In connection with the International Congress and Exposition on Disability and the related United Nations expert meeting, both held at Vancouver in April 1992, DPI coordinated the production of an exhibit and provided selected press release coverage, as well as press and media liaison services. DPI is producing a major inter-agency publication to commemorate the end of the Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992). Entitled The Decade of Disabled Persons: a global commitment, the project is being financed through contributions by participating United Nations agencies and organizations. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Promotion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons also provided seed money for production of design prototypes developed by DPI. In return for their support, DPI will provide the participating organizations with several hundred copies of the publication.

49. The Department is also producing an illustrated, abbreviated version of the "World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons", as well as newly designed reprints of the World Programme's full text in Arabic, English and French.

50. In connection with special General Assembly meetings on disability and ageing scheduled to take place during the forty-seventh session, DPI prepared print public service announcements for use in news magazines and non-governmental organization publications; two information kits in English, French and Spanish on key issues concerning ageing and disability; and an exhibit on ageing. The Department is also coordinating several special programmes and briefings for non-governmental organizations, as well as arrangements for non-governmental organization-sponsored exhibits, to be held in September and October.

51. The Department provided press, radio and television coverage and press accreditation for the Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, held in Paris in November 1991. Apart from the background press release produced in English and French, six press releases in both languages were produced and released on site and in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The opening and round-up releases were sent by telefax to selected media outlets in Europe and North America and provided to United Nations information centres that have electronic mail capability. After the Ministerial Meeting, a short backgrounder on its results was produced by DPI at Vienna in consultation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch.

XI. ACTIVITIES PERTAINING TO ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

52. DPI was requested in paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 46/73 B to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to environment and development.

53. During the reporting period, the Department proceeded with the implementation of its multimedia information programme on environment and development in connection with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Brazil in June 1992. The Department's print activities included the issuance of a revised and updated edition of the pre-Conference publicity brochure in English, in February 1992; the preparation of background articles in the Earth Summit in Focus series, including "Population: balancing the global equation", "Protecting the diversity of species on the planet", "The business of sustainable development" and "Global climate change: the need for clean energy"; and the production and distribution of a full-size poster promoting the Earth Summit in all official languages and in Portuguese. In addition, UN Chronicle devoted 24 pages of its June 1992 issue to the Earth Summit.

54. A large number of audio-visual materials were produced by DPI for the Conference, including an animated children's video on sustainable development; an educational video and teaching guide on environment and development in the series About the United Nations; and a series of public service announcements for television promoting environmental sustainability and the Earth Summit.

55. The Department completed production of a special series of eight radio documentary programmes under the general title Earth Summit 1992, dealing with such issues as "Protecting our rivers", "Food security for a growing world", "Preserving our forests", "Sustaining the global atmosphere", "Women as the key to sustainable development", "Sustaining our oceans", "The greening of business" and "The impact of poverty on sustainable development". The series was distributed in several languages to radio stations and networks around the world, including Radio Japan and the American Public Radio Network.

56. The Department also produced and distributed to television stations world wide 13 video items on sustainable development in the UN in Action series. These items were also packaged for further distribution in English, French and Spanish. Some of the topics covered were reforestation in Panama, return of the rain forest to its indigenous population, ozone depletion, United Nations preparations for the Earth Summit, biodiversity in Colombia, environmental lessons of Cubatao and digging of a water channel in Mali.

57. Another series of video programmes co-produced with Worldwide Television News was compiled as a package in English, French and Spanish on various issues of environment and development for use in connection with the Conference. The topics covered were sustainable consumption, sustainable technology, climate change, land management, freshwater management in the Great Lakes and biodiversity.

58. Three editions of World Chronicle were devoted to Conference-related issues and featured Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Michael Zammit Cutajar, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Jean-Claude Faby, Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

59. The Department has also produced a half-hour video documentary about the Earth Summit, which covers the main events and sums up its achievements. The programme will be distributed through United Nations information centres to television stations world wide.

60. In connection with inter-agency cooperation on the environment, as called for in resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (o), the United Nations system exhibition at the Earth Summit, mounted by DPI at RioCentro, became the visual leitmotif of the event. Many of the world's television media used the exhibit as a backdrop for their reports. DPI also compiled and distributed at the Summit a kit on the work of the United Nations system on sustainable development, for which inserts were produced by various agencies and programmes.

61. The press kit distributed to journalists at the Conference included summaries of the revised draft Agenda 21, Forest Principles, the Rio Declaration and the conventions on climate change and biodiversity; Issues in Brief - fact sheets on major issues; "Quotable quotes"; a background press release; information notes on Conference logistics; and glossy sheets of the Conference logo. Some 9,000 kits were distributed in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

62. DPI worked for one year to prepare for press coverage of the Earth Summit. It serviced the Conference with 43 international and 40 local staff. Planning for this unprecedented event involved interdepartmental meetings, as well as meetings with the Government of Brazil, and focused on training and personnel, equipment, facilities, services and production.

63. DPI organized and operated the Press Centre at RioCentro, providing services to some 8,700 accredited journalists. These services included: accreditation; document distribution; audio-visual coverage and facilities; photographic services; press briefings; press releases; coordination of press access to meetings; and interviews with United Nations senior officials. The briefing room at the Press Centre, run by DPI, was fully booked on all days of the Conference for 30-minute briefings. Office space was provided for press officers from the specialized agencies and from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development Media Office.

64. In terms of the Department's own coverage of the Conference proceedings, a team of radio officers travelled to Rio de Janeiro, and provided daily news reports and weekly round-ups for use both in United Nations radio programmes and for broadcasters world wide. These reports were also sent regularly via New York to short-wave broadcasters in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the

Middle East, with whom prior arrangements had been made to broadcast both locally and regionally.

65. Full live television coverage during the Conference included, inter alia, the arrival of world leaders on the opening day, the flag-raising ceremony, the daily morning and afternoon plenary meetings, the press conferences and the signatures of the conventions on biodiversity and climate change. The Department received more than 350 requests for a television package, which included multiple items, in addition to the daily packages for the international news syndicators Visnews and Worldwide Television News.

66. During the Conference, more than 6,000 photographs were provided to the media and delegations on a same-day basis. During the Conference, the Department issued 30 press releases in English and 27 in French.

XII. CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

67. The Department was requested in resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (b) (iii), to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to the international fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. In this connection, DPI covered extensively the 1991 visit to Peru by the Executive Director of the United Nations Drug Control Programme for the purpose of exploring ways for the United Nations to monitor agreements between the Peruvian Government and the coca farmers. The United Nations information centre at Lima organized a press conference with the Executive Director and issued a press release.

68. A booklet describing the proposed United Nations photo exhibit on drug control was produced for use in funding efforts. The objective is to obtain sponsorship by private sector organizations for this project, which is wholly dependent on external fund-raising. In addition, the Department is awaiting a final decision on designs for logos it has prepared for the United Nations Drug Control Programme and for the Decade against Drug Abuse.

69. Advance copies of the 1991 Report of the International Narcotics Control Board were distributed to correspondents at Headquarters in English, French and Spanish, and were also sent to all United Nations information centres in the appropriate languages. Press releases on the report were distributed to the media at Headquarters and through the information centres.

70. The Department also produced a special radio documentary entitled "The global drug problem". Produced in English, the documentary was adapted in the other five official languages, as well as in seven other languages, and distributed to broadcasters world wide.

71. In coordination with the New York City Mayor's Office of Drug Abuse Policy, the Department in February assisted with arrangements and prepared a press release for the preparatory meeting for the International Conference of Mayors against Drug Abuse, later held in May at Buenos Aires. In cooperation

with the United Nations Drug Control Programme, DPI is revising and reprinting the booklet "The United Nations and drug abuse control" in English, French and Spanish.

XIII. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

72. In resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (b) (iv), the General Assembly requested DPI to do its utmost to disseminate widely and to publicize the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 and the tremendous efforts of the African countries towards recovery and development, as well as the positive response by the international community to alleviate the serious economic situation prevailing in Africa.

73. The basis of most of the Department's work in this area was the Final Review and Assessment of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 by the General Assembly, which resulted in the adoption of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. The Department's efforts in this regard, through a specially produced media package and a series of press events and interviews, yielded prominent coverage of the crisis by virtually all of the world's major internationally disseminated newspapers, the two television news channels distributed world wide (the new BBC-TV World Service and CNN), numerous international radio programmes, as well as the national media in virtually all African and developed countries.

74. In addition to widely disseminating the report of the Secretary-General and of the General Assembly on the review of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, the Department also continued publication of its quarterly periodical Africa Recovery. For "excellent documentation on the African crisis and effective strategies for action", this publication, along with other well-known mass media, was awarded a World Hunger Media Award by the non-governmental organization World Hunger Year.

75. The Department also produced a number of briefing papers and pamphlets on environment and development, the economic repercussions of a free South Africa, southern Africa and the issue of African debt relief.

XIV. ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF APARTHEID

76. In paragraph 1 (b) (v) of resolution 46/73 B, the Department was requested to enhance the effectiveness of its activities and the dissemination of information on United Nations activities against the policies and practices of apartheid, giving due attention to the unilateral measures and official censorship imposed on the local and international media with regard to all aspects of that issue.

77. In pursuance of that mandate, the Department continued to implement its programme of promoting ideas embodied in the General Assembly Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa. The Apartheid South Africa Travelling Exhibit, produced jointly by the Centre against Apartheid and DPI, was updated in order to take into account the changing situation in South Africa. The exhibit was displayed in Germany, Peru, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. At the same time, a promotion campaign utilizing seminars, pamphlets and press conferences was conducted to reinforce the exhibit's message.

78. The Department continued to distribute the seven language versions of the poster "For a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa" and the postcard version of the poster, produced in English and French.

79. The Department has continued to produce special radio programmes on this priority issue and to provide a weekly news telephone dispatch to radio broadcasting stations in southern Africa. At present, special attention is being given to the role of the United Nations in the current political situation in South Africa.

XV. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

80. In paragraph 1 (b) (vii) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to ensure that DPI continued to cover all United Nations activities pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine in particular, and current developments in that region. Information activities relevant to the issue were also carried out by the Department within the framework of its programme on the question of Palestine mandated by General Assembly resolution 46/74 C of 11 December 1991.

81. Included in the programme are a variety of projects, such as the organizing of international, regional and national encounters on the question of Palestine, the holding of fact-finding missions for journalists to the Middle East and the publishing of special materials.

82. The Department sponsored an Encounter for Irish Journalists on the Question of Palestine, held at Dublin on 5 May 1992. The theme of this event, co-sponsored by the Centre for European Economic and Public Affairs, University College Dublin, was "Preparing for peace: the imperative for interim relief in the occupied Palestinian territory". Issues related to the obligations of the High Contracting Parties to the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War were discussed, and practical approaches to Europe's role vis-à-vis the question of protection were explored. Prominent Palestinian and Israeli personalities and European experts served as panelists. A regional encounter for European journalists was held at Lisbon on 16 and 17 September 1992, which was attended by more than 50 European journalists. In addition, a tour for journalists to the Middle East is being planned for late 1992.

83. The Department issued a poster promoting the message of self-determination as an inalienable right of the Palestinian people and a booklet based on the proceedings of the International Encounter for European Journalists on the Question of Palestine, held at Helsinki in June 1991.

XVI. MODERN TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE COLLECTION, PRODUCTION, STORAGE, DISSEMINATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION MATERIALS

84. In resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (c) (ii), the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to ensure that DPI continued to apply, in the context of the review of its role, performance and methods of work, appropriate modern technologies for the collection, production, storage, dissemination and distribution of information materials.

85. In 1992, the Department began using a totally computerized system for telecommunications with United Nations information centres and other field offices. Outgoing messages for public information purposes are now handled by a computer programme that automatically routes messages by electronic mail, telex or telefax, depending on the facilities available at the receiving end. This makes it possible to send messages from the desktop throughout DPI to nearly 150 official addresses, with minimal handling and at the lowest possible telecommunications cost. So far, 54 United Nations information centres have been computerized. In 1992, 15 information centres were equipped with laser printers.

86. During the reporting period, access to electronic mail has been extended to United Nations information centres at Islamabad, New Delhi and Prague, which brings to 29 the number of centres now utilizing this economic means of communication. Centres at Cairo and Port-of-Spain are in the process of obtaining such a capability.

87. To ensure timely distribution of information materials to subscribers, press releases are now transmitted electronically to Reuters Information Services as they are issued, for inclusion in a service available on a subscription basis. Global Education Motivators, a non-governmental organization that manages the Information Services on the United Nations, is negotiating to place the Services on a computer accessible to a larger number of users.

88. A computerized mailing list programme for microcomputers has been developed for United Nations information centres and is now being tested at several centres. Its aim is to automate record-keeping and the printing of labels, while standardizing the collection of names and addresses. Copies of United Nations information centres' mailing lists will be maintained in a computerized master list at Headquarters and made available to other DPI units for purposes of targeted dissemination in individual countries.

XVII. ANNUAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR BROADCASTERS AND JOURNALISTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

89. In resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (c) (vi), the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to ensure that DPI continued its briefing, assistance and orientation programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries focused on United Nations-related issues.

90. Broadcasters and journalists from 15 countries are taking part in the 1992 programme, being held from 8 September to 16 October 1992. Four journalists sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation will also participate in the programme. Thus, a total of 209 broadcasters and journalists from more than 115 countries will have participated in the DPI media training programme since 1981.

91. Participants will be given an opportunity to become familiar with the work of the United Nations, to strengthen their professional skills and to learn more about the major national and international media and research institutions based in New York. They will visit the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at Washington, D.C., and spend a weekend at Rochester at the invitation of the Rochester Association for the United Nations. Participants will also be required to carry out work assignments under the supervision of DPI officials, which will be compiled into a booklet for presentation to them, as well as to their respective missions.

XVIII. UN CHRONICLE

92. In paragraph 1 (d) of resolution 46/73 B, DPI was requested to produce and distribute its publications in a timely manner. Further, with regard to the UN Chronicle, the General Assembly requested DPI to consider the interests of specific target audiences and take action to expand its circulation.

93. The UN Chronicle has been issued as a quarterly news magazine since May 1986 and improvements in its format and printing have been welcomed by its readers and by the General Assembly. However, there have been numerous requests from subscribers that it be issued more frequently, so that the information provided, such as proceedings of the Security Council, would be available sooner. Also, many readers have asked that the annual index, discontinued in 1985, be restored.

94. DPI in the past has conducted several readership surveys among UN Chronicle subscribers in order to assess the needs of the target audience and help widen the circulation of this publication. In a report on the 1988 survey of the UN Chronicle, submitted to the Committee on Information in 1989, 2/ the Department recommended, inter alia, reviewing the periodicity of the magazine to improve the timeliness of information provided to readers. In view of this continuing interest of the subscribers, the Department intends to examine the possibility of changing the periodicity of this publication, as

well as the financial implications thereof, and will report to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly through the Committee on Information.

XIX. YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS

95. Also in paragraph 1 (d) of resolution 46/73 B, it was noted in regard to the Secretary-General's report on the Yearbook of the United Nations, 3/ that the Committee on Information shared his assessment regarding delays in the publication of the Yearbook, as well as recommended its continuation and the maintenance of its editorial independence, objectivity and comprehensiveness. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the report, particularly as regards paragraphs 66 and 67.

96. DPI has made considerable progress in the implementation of these recommendations. It accepted the offer of Martinus Nijhoff Publishers to fund and hire experienced editors/writers on a temporary basis to provide the assistance required to eliminate the backlog editions. The Department has drawn up new research and production guidelines and restructured the scope and content of the Yearbook in order to eliminate the backlog by 1993 and proceed with the publication of the current edition (vol. 45, 1991) in 1992.

97. As scheduled, volume 41, 1987, was published this year. Volume 42, 1988, is expected to be published in April 1993. Research for the 1989 and 1990 editions is expected to commence in October 1992. Work on the 1991 edition is at an advanced stage and is expected to be completed by the end of September, with its publication to follow soon thereafter.

XX. DEVELOPMENT FORUM

98. In paragraph 1 (f) of resolution 46/73 B, the Secretary-General was urged by the Assembly to continue his efforts to secure a sound and stable financial basis for the publication Development Forum.

99. It must be noted in that regard that the financial situation of Development Forum has continued to deteriorate, despite the efforts by DPI to secure additional funding from the members of the Joint United Nations Information Committee, as well as from other sources.

100. The Committee on Information at its recent fourteenth session unanimously recommended continued timely production of Development Forum. A recent readership survey, conducted by DPI, indicated a broad constituency and its strong support for the publication.

101. The future of the publication was the subject of lengthy discussions at the eighteenth session of the Joint Committee held in July 1992. In view of the agreement on the need for a system-wide publication on economic and social issues, the Committee established a working group consisting of

representatives of DPI, UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank to study the issue and report its findings to the Committee by November 1992.

102. The Joint United Nations Information Committee noted that, while taking into account the findings of its working group, in view of the recommendations of the Committee on Information at its recent session, it was important that the Department maintain Development Forum until the General Assembly could reach a decision on the issue.

103. Despite its critical financial status, Development Forum has managed to maintain regular publication of its three language editions (English, French and Spanish). During the reporting period, it has focused on issues in connection with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The May-June 1992 issue, for example, was devoted entirely to the Earth Summit, and additional copies were distributed at Rio de Janeiro during the Conference.

104. Regrettably, without additional funding, it will not be possible to publish Development Forum beyond the end of 1992. It should be noted that a separate report on the subject is being submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

XXI. UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRES

105. In paragraph 1 (g) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly requested that DPI conduct a periodic evaluation of the efficiency of each United Nations information centre in disseminating information.

106. In April 1992, the Department conducted a comprehensive survey of activities undertaken by United Nations information centres, with a focus on their efforts to enhance public awareness of United Nations priority themes, to utilize materials produced by Headquarters, to cooperate with other field offices and to provide services to local media organizations and non-governmental organizations. At Headquarters, efforts are under way to develop a data bank of activities undertaken by information centres, which would facilitate further analysis and improvement of programme delivery, taking into account both United Nations resources and regional requirements.

107. In paragraph 1 (h) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly requested the Department to coordinate closely with other field offices of the United Nations system, particularly those of UNDP, and, in countries where no local United Nations information centre existed, the Department was requested to ensure that adequate information about the United Nations was provided.

108. In this connection, the Department, jointly with UNDP, has been actively pursuing the integration of certain United Nations information centres with UNDP field offices. Without prejudice to the functional autonomy of the information component in the field offices, the objective is to seek to

present a unified image of the United Nations as well as to increase efficiency through the achievement of economies of scale. Eighteen information centres headed by a UNDP resident representative acting concurrently as information centre director have been integrated as the first phase of the integration exercise. These centres were instructed to further share resources and facilities as feasible and to coordinate more closely in planning activities, external relations and administrative support areas. Their experiences will be examined over a trial period of one year and will be communicated to other field offices that could also benefit from closer coordination. All centres were further instructed to strengthen coordination with other United Nations agencies, United Nations Associations and other non-governmental organizations. The Department, jointly with UNDP, is continuing the review of its information activities in the field, taking into full account the guidelines and mandates established by the General Assembly.

109. In addition, at the initiative of the Secretary-General, efforts are well under way towards the establishment of United Nations interim offices, initially in six member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, namely, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. These offices will provide a unified United Nations presence and ensure practical and effective dialogue between the United Nations and the new Member States of the Organization. These offices will focus on development as well as public information activities, with major responsibilities to include the initiation of special projects to support economic transition; strengthening the role of national media and its infrastructure; and liaison with non-governmental organizations, governmental agencies and academic institutions. The offices will be jointly staffed, at the professional level, by United Nations Secretariat and UNDP personnel.

110. The Department considers the establishment of the category of national information officer, recruited locally, as a critical element of successful operation in the field. Accordingly, it is hoped that such a position can be extended to all relevant field offices in order to ensure coordination of activities by all United Nations offices in a given locality, as well as to assist in forging contacts with local media and in maintaining dialogue with non-governmental organizations, governmental agencies and academic institutions.

111. In paragraph 1 (i) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly requested the Department to make every effort, where necessary, to seek reimbursement from other organizations that call upon the United Nations information centres to undertake tasks beyond their specific mandate. In this regard, the Department is consulting the relevant organizations to devise appropriate cost-apportioning methods where applicable. This is particularly important in the integrated offices, where the information component will continue to maintain an autonomous accounting system. The Department has also requested the relevant organizations to create a separate item for publicity in their project budgets, so that the information component would be able to draw on resources as necessary.

112. In paragraph 1 (l) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to provide the necessary professionals and equipment where necessary for the enhancing of the United Nations information centres at Tehran, Dar es Salaam, Dhaka and Bujumbura.

113. In this connection, in 1991, the Department appointed a full-time locally recruited Information Assistant in Tehran, and has initiated action to recruit a Reference Assistant. The Centre has full access to equipment and facilities of the local UNDP office.

114. The Centre at Dar es Salaam presently has four Local-level staff. Two staff members received computer training in 1991 and the Administrative Assistant participated in a seminar on administrative issues organized by a local institution. The Centre was supplied with a computer, printer, telefax and telex machine, as well as a motor vehicle.

115. In Dhaka, the Information Centre was provided a motor vehicle and scooter for distribution of information. Equipment supplied included computer, telefax and telex machines. The Centre already has four Local-level staff, while an Information Assistant is currently being recruited. Three staff members received computer training in 1991.

116. The United Nations Information Centre in Bujumbura has five Local-level staff and is equipped with telefax and telex machines. The Senior Information Assistant participated in a special briefing programme held at Headquarters in 1991.

117. In paragraph 1 (m) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly approved the establishment of a new United Nations information centre at San'a. In that connection, the Department has initiated action to establish an information operation, which included a visit by a DPI official to Yemen in late August to negotiate, within current guidelines and limited resources, logistical and other issues related to that operation.

118. In paragraph 1 (m), the General Assembly also took note of the requests of Costa Rica and Bulgaria to have information components in their countries. In that regard, the Department has taken steps to cooperate more closely with the University of Peace as a focal point of dissemination of United Nations information materials in Costa Rica. The Department will give a thorough briefing on United Nations information materials to personnel in charge of information collection at the University. Initial contacts with Bulgarian officials have sought to explore the possible areas of cooperation, particularly the designation of a focal point, along the lines of cooperation with the University of Peace in Costa Rica.

XXII. COORDINATION OF INFORMATION ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

119. In paragraph 1 (n) of General Assembly resolution 46/73 B, in recognition of the need for coordinating the information activities of the United Nations system, DPI was encouraged to continue its active participation in the work of the Joint United Nations Information Committee.

120. Accordingly, the Department has continued to provide secretariat services for the Joint Committee. In that capacity, it organized the eighteenth session of the Committee, convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Richard Lydiker, Director of Information of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and held from 7 to 9 July 1992 at FAO headquarters at Rome. Many issues of mutual concern and interest to the organizations of the United Nations system were taken up, including the following:

(a) The Joint Committee discussed at length the work programme and funding of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service. It recognized the need to further increase inter-agency cooperation with the non-governmental organization community through the Service, and decided to recommend to the Administrative Committee on Coordination that this Service become a United Nations system jointly financed activity based on voluntary and sustainable financial contributions.

(b) The Committee also discussed issues related to Development Forum, at present the only system-wide publication on economic and social issues. The summary of the discussion in the Committee is contained in paragraphs 101 and 102 above.

(c) The Committee also reviewed its participation in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which had been at the core of its agenda over the past year, and discussed inter-agency activities that could be undertaken as a follow up to the Conference.

(d) In addition, the Committee considered project proposals for inter-agency information programmes for a number of major upcoming events, including the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women and the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

(e) The Committee discussed the arrangements for the completion of the "Agenda for a small planet IV" series of television documentaries produced by participants from both developed and developing countries under the working title "Blueprint for the future: challenge and response". It agreed in principle to co-sponsor the preparation of another such series ("Agenda V") that would concentrate on issues relating to women and development, to be produced by 1995, in the context of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, as well as the Fourth World Conference on Women.

121. At the session, the Department reiterated its commitment to strengthening cooperation further with other members of the Joint Committee in areas of mutual concern, whether that be in sharing the services and facilities of United Nations information centres in the field, the technical facilities and expertise of the Department, or the pooling of financial resources and staff for the development of joint information activities and programmes.

122. The report of the Joint United Nations Information Committee has been submitted to the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21) A/47/21.

2/ A/AC.198/1989/3.

3/ A/AC.198/1991/6.

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report was prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 46/12 of 28 October 1991 concerning cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

2. In that resolution, the General Assembly:

> "1. Expresses its satisfaction at the signing of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System, which is oriented towards the broadening of their cooperation in matters of common concern, particularly in areas relating to the economic and social development of Latin America;
>
> "2. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General;
>
> "3. Urges the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to continue broadening and deepening its coordination and mutual support activities with the Latin American Economic System;
>
> "4. Urges the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen and broaden its support to the programmes that the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System is carrying out, including the adoption of a new regional project within the framework of its Fifth Programming Cycle, aimed at complementing the technical assistance activities conducted by the Latin American Economic System;
>
> "5. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue and intensify their support for and cooperation with the activities of the Latin American Economic System;
>
> "6. Requests both the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System to assess, at the appropriate time, the implementation of the recently signed Agreement between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System, and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its forty-seventh session;
>
> "7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. For the preparation of the present report, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) wrote to the following organizations of the United Nations system requesting an update of their activities with SELA, to be included in the Secretary-General's report: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), General

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), United Nations University (UNU), World Food Council (WFC) and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). Eight of these replied by sending a summary of their activities in cooperation with SELA. Six noted that they did not currently carry out any activities with SELA; a number of them, however, expressed a desire to do so in the future. The following summary was based on all of this information.

II. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

4. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (A/46/419), since the establishment in October 1975 of SELA, considerable cooperation has taken place between the United Nations and SELA, in particular with ECLAC, but also with other organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system.

5. As the above-mentioned report shows, this cooperation has increased over the years and has become more diversified in terms of both the areas and the organizations concerned.

6. In the context of efforts to intensify cooperation between the United Nations and SELA, and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/5 of 16 October 1990, a meeting on cooperation between the two organizations was held on 27 September 1991, at which the Organization of American States (OAS) was also represented. At that meeting, the cooperation under way was evaluated and new possibilities for joint action were explored, some of which are reflected in the present report.

7. Also on 27 September 1991, and also pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/5, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Secretary of SELA signed an Agreement of Cooperation designed to formalize the activities of cooperation between the two organizations.

8. Pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement of Cooperation, General Assembly resolution 46/12 and resolution 522 (XXIV) of ECLAC, the latter has continued to cooperate closely with SELA. The following paragraphs summarize those activities during the period covered by the present report.

9. Cooperation between ECLAC and SELA has included the participation of ECLAC representatives in various meetings convened by the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and vice versa. Notable in that regard was the participation of the Permanent Secretary of SELA in the twenty-fourth session of ECLAC, held at Santiago from 8 to 15 April 1992. ECLAC has continued to prepare specialized documents to support SELA activities. Listed below are only a few examples of this cooperation.

10. In the area of transport, in early 1992 ECLAC prepared detailed comments on a SELA report concerning air transport in Latin America.

11. In the area of industry and technology, ECLAC participated in the preparatory meetings for the Regional Conference on Industrialization convened by SELA, and contributed to the elaboration of the proposals and recommendations submitted at that Conference, held from 9 to 11 October 1991 at SELA headquarters.

12. With regard to social policies, ECLAC has continued to act as focal point for the activities of various agencies concerning integrated social policies in the region, in which SELA has played an active role.

13. In that context, the Third Informal Inter-agency Meeting on Integrated Social Policies and Economic Adjustment in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by SELA, was held on 7 and 8 May at Caracas. On that occasion, a document on the social dimensions of changing production patterns with social equity, prepared by ECLAC, was presented to help define the essential problems and identify common approaches in order to orient the agencies' activities in the field of social policy.

14. During that meeting, important agreements were reached on joint activities, such as the final revision of the ECLAC document, the establishment of a social project bank, the conduct of inter-agency missions and projects on social policy, the creation of an information and communications network and support for current efforts regarding the convening of a world summit for social development, including the organization of a regional preparatory meeting for that event, which would be held in Latin America in 1994.

15. On the subject of forward planning, the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) has maintained close cooperation with SELA. In this context, ILPES, in conjunction with France's International Institute for Public Administration, organized the International Colloquium on the World Economic Outlook and its Effects on the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Santiago from 15 to 18 April 1991. The Permanent Secretary of SELA attended the Colloquium and gave a presentation on the

content of a document on the Enterprise for the Americas initiative in the context of relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the United States.

16. In the field of information, consultations have been initiated in recent months to define the terms of collaboration of the ECLAC/Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) Regional Programme to Strengthen Cooperation among National Information Networks and Systems for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOLAC) with the Project on the Status of Regional Cooperation and the Simón Bolívar Programme on Latin American technological innovation. Under the Network of Latin American Information Networks project, which will be launched during 1992, plans are envisaged for CLADES to provide information management training to network participants.

17. With respect to external economic relations, ECLAC has continued to contribute to the activities of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, particularly in regard to the relations of Latin America and the Caribbean with the United States, the European Economic Community (EEC) and Japan. In this context, an ECLAC staff member prepared a document on challenges and opportunities in trade relations between Japan and Latin America (LC/L.632), which was considered at a meeting organized by SELA at Caracas on 9 and 10 December 1991.

18. Moreover, ECLAC is preparing, in conjunction with SELA and UNCTAD, a regional technical cooperation project, aimed at the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in the field of international trade and trade relations.

19. Furthermore, the ECLAC secretariat was represented at a meeting of agencies and experts on Latin American and Caribbean integration and cooperation, held at SELA headquarters on 25 and 26 June 1992.

20. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA participated in the second colloquium on global questions concerning the process of hemispheric trade liberalization, sponsored by ECLAC and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and held at Washington, D.C., on 30 April and 1 May 1992. It also participated in the third colloquium on the same subject, held at Toronto, Canada, from 31 May to 2 June.

21. The SELA and ECLAC secretariats maintain ongoing consultations regarding these and other areas of economic cooperation and matters of mutual interest. Among these are technical support for the countries of the so-called Rio Group; promotion of a convergence among the various Latin American economic integration modalities; and the execution of a special programme of cooperation on external trade, under which consideration is being given to the convening of another meeting of foreign trade officials in the region.

22. In the area of environment and development, an ECLAC staff member participated in the meeting of experts invited to participate in a personal

capacity prior to the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, on 30 and 31 January 1992.

23. With respect to technical cooperation, ECLAC hosted a regional meeting on TCDC in health technologies, organized by SELA with the support of WHO/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), UNDP and the Government of Chile in the context of Project Convergence, which sought to encourage negotiations for TCDC among the countries of the region in the transfer of health technologies. The meeting opened at ECLAC headquarters at Santiago on 6 July 1992. ECLAC was invited to join the monitoring committee for any TCDC activities originating and taking place in the context of this project.

24. ECLAC is cooperating in preparatory activities for a TCDC workshop in the area of trade, oriented towards the exchange of experiences and the promotion of joint actions concerning access to regional and extraregional markets. The workshop will be organized by SELA and ECLAC, with the support of UNDP through its Special Unit for TCDC, and will take place in March 1993.

25. Support was given to the Meeting of Directors of International Technical Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by SELA, which took place immediately before the meeting of the Latin American Council in September 1991. Additionally, in September 1991, ECLAC participated in the annual Meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for Regional Bodies and Forums Engaged in TCDC Activities, which was held simultaneously with the Council meetings.

26. With regard to cooperation between UNDP and SELA, the organizations finished carrying out the activities defined in the objectives of regional project RLA/87/028, "Regional cooperation - SELA (phase IV)", concluded on 31 December 1991, in the areas of international trade negotiations, industrialization, integration, external debt and regional cooperation.

27. The General Assembly, in paragraph 4 of resolution 46/12, urged UNDP to "strengthen and broaden its support to the programmes that the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System is carrying out, including the adoption of a new regional project within the framework of its Fifth Programming Cycle, aimed at complementing the technical assistance activities conducted by the Latin American Economic System".

28. Accordingly, a two-month preparatory assistance project (RLA/92/008) was submitted for consideration to the UNDP Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to the preparation and adoption of a new UNDP/SELA project to be included in the fifth programming cycle for an initial period of two years (1993-1994) for an amount of $550,000. This project will comprise activities in the areas of external economic relations, foreign trade and financing, industrialization, innovation, competitiveness and social equity, and regional cooperation and convergence.

29. A regional workshop on the application of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, sponsored by SELA and UNDP, was held at SELA headquarters from 12 to 15 May 1992. The Permanent Secretariat also participated in the working meeting of consultants for the UNDP/UNCTAD project on trade and environment, held in New York on 4 and 5 May.

30. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA receives technical and financial support from the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC in conducting the meetings of directors of international technical cooperation, in the context of SELA meetings. This support has contributed to the definition of a working strategy to strengthen national focal points for technical cooperation and the identification of priority activities and projects. In turn, the identification of priority areas has facilitated the promotion of programming exercises and TCDC negotiations in specific fields. The 26 States members of SELA participate in those meetings, and representatives of international and regional organizations also attend as observers. The meetings have been held at SELA headquarters since 1986, and have become institutionalized as forums for programming and negotiating TCDC activities in the region.

31. Pursuant to decisions 287, 304 and 319 of the Latin American Council of SELA, the directors of international technical cooperation of the States members of SELA defined the health sector as a priority and agreed to hold, in coordination with UNDP, PAHO/WHO and SELA, a programming and negotiating exercise on TCDC in the field of technological development in the health sector. To that end, four subregional meetings were held as forums for preliminary negotiation prior to the regional meeting, which took place at Santiago from 6 to 10 July 1992.

32. This TCDC exercise has been designated "Project Convergence" and is intended to stimulate the development of health technology in the region and to facilitate and implement enhanced cooperation among government bodies, research and development centres and producers of health technology, with the aim of promoting the development of effective technologies at a reasonable cost.

33. The third (Central American) subregional meeting took place at Antigua, Guatemala, from 9 to 12 March 1992, while the fourth (Caribbean) subregional meeting was held at Bridgetown from 27 to 30 April. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA was represented at both meetings.

34. WHO, with the support of UNDP, has collaborated with SELA in connection with the above-mentioned project on technical cooperation among developing countries in the health field (Project Convergence).

35. As a result of this cooperation, several TCDC project profiles have been developed at subregional and regional levels. The projects presented at the subregional meetings promote integration among government agencies, research and development centres, universities and private producers of health technology. At the July meeting, representatives from all participating countries will negotiate regional projects of mutual interest, which will be submitted to several international agencies for consideration and support.

36. Cooperation between UNESCO and SELA has continued under the cooperation agreement signed on 20 July 1988 between the two organizations. On 31 March 1992, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA participated in the official international launching of the Simón Bolívar Programme, a regional initiative supported by SELA, UNESCO and IDB, which seeks to achieve technological development, innovation and industrial competitiveness through new linkages among the scientific, academic, business and public sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean.

37. As indicated in the section on ECLAC, UNESCO sponsored, jointly with the Commission and SELA, the Third Informal Inter-agency Meeting on Integrated Social Policies and Economic Adjustment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at SELA headquarters on 7 and 8 May.

38. In addition, the Permanent Secretariat prepared and distributed the report of the UNESCO/International Centre of Advanced Communication Studies for Latin America (CIESPAL) seminar on communication and integration, held at Cuenca, Ecuador, from 7 to 9 April 1992.

39. The Permanent Secretary of SELA contributed an article to the UNESCO magazine concerning future prospects for resources for cooperation between Europe and Latin America.

40. UNCTAD and SELA have intensified their joint activities in recent years in areas concerning international trade and, in particular, technical assistance to the Latin American and Caribbean countries participating in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. The Permanent Secretariat has collaborated with the UNCTAD secretariat and with ECLAC in the execution of project RLA/87/019, under which joint analyses of the status of negotiations in the Round have continued, in terms of the interests of the countries of the region. In that regard, in April 1992 the organizations finalized and distributed to all member States the document entitled "An analysis of the draft final act of the Uruguay Round".

41. SELA also participated actively in the entire preparatory process for the eighth session of UNCTAD, as well as in the session itself. A ministerial meeting for Latin American coordination prior to the eighth session of UNCTAD was held from 28 August to 4 September 1991 at SELA headquarters, with the support of the UNCTAD secretariat, at which an important position paper was adopted that served as a reference not only for the Group of 77, but also for many other delegations participating in the session at Cartagena.

42. After the session, at the request of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries at Geneva, the SELA secretariat prepared a document containing observations on the proposed terms of reference for the new permanent commissions and working groups of UNCTAD, which proved useful for the delegations participating in the second part of the thirty-eighth session of the Trade and Development Board, held at Geneva from 21 April to 4 May 1992.

43. UNCTAD has invited SELA to participate in the development of a new programme of technical cooperation on international trade and trade relations for Latin America and the Caribbean (LATINTRADE), which will, henceforth, be the main vehicle for the principal areas of cooperation between UNCTAD and SELA. During its eighth Conference (held at Cartagena, Colombia, in February 1992), UNCTAD organized an inter-agency meeting, in which SELA, ECLAC, UNDP and IDB participated, and at which the first in-depth discussion of the draft LATINTRADE programme took place. It was decided that UNCTAD, ECLAC and SELA would be the co-sponsoring agencies for LATINTRADE, with the support of UNDP.

44. Following a request made subsequent to the joint UNCTAD/SELA/Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC) Workshop on technology, trade and development issues in Latin America in the 1990s (Caracas, June 1990), UNCTAD prepared a project document relating to technical assistance in marketing research and development results by strengthening links between the academic research community and the enterprise sector (LATINTEC) and has sent SELA several drafts revised by experts and institutions in the region. The role of SELA would be to coordinate regional activities and, inter alia, to host the regional workshop envisaged in the project document.

45. In the context of continued cooperation with SELA in the area of reconciliation of environment and trade policies, UNCTAD has invited SELA officials to participate in its expert group meetings.

46. UNCTAD would welcome the involvement of SELA in the possible setting up of an interregional trade financing facility to enhance world-wide trade as an instrument of growth and development, a proposal that is presently under discussion.

47. In the context of increased trade liberalization and better convertibility of currency, UNCTAD has held consultations with SELA and other regional organizations to determine the best way to achieve the necessary adaptations of payment and clearing arrangements without distorting normal flows of trade, investment and technology. Emphasis has been placed on the mobilization of domestic and regional resources as well as the greater involvement of enterprises in this endeavour.

48. Within the framework of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD, regional enterprises are kept informed of cross-regional economic relationships, and are thereby encouraged to become more involved in environmentally sound trade and development activities. In this context, training programmes and advisory services are being developed, involving the participation of States members of SELA.

49. The Department of Economic and Social Development has been implementing a substantial programme of technical cooperation activities in the developing countries that are members of SELA.

50. In the science and technology sector, the Department is following closely a regional programme of research and training implemented by the Latin American Commission on Science and Technology (COLCYT) in the area of technological forecasting. SELA and the COLCYT secretariat are expected to participate in the United Nations Seminar on Technology Monitoring, Assessment and Forecasting to be convened by the Department at UNESCO, Paris, from 25 to 29 January 1993. The Department will also make a special effort to ensure the representation of SELA at the first session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development of the Economic and Social Council to be held in New York from 12 to 23 April 1993. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA and COLCYT will be associated in the follow-up of both international meetings, which are of interest to SELA in connection with its science and technology activities, in keeping with General Assembly resolution 46/12.

51. In the field of research and analysis of development issues and policies, the Department continued to work closely with SELA, exchanging on a regular basis information and analysis regarding various economic issues of global and regional concerns. In particular, it provides SELA with reports on global economic and social trends, issues and policies, such as the World Economic Survey. At the same time, the Department receives SELA studies, position papers and other documents on regional economic and social matters, which are duly taken into account in its activities. In addition, the Department occasionally participates in seminars organized by SELA and ECLAC.

52. In the population sector, the Department carries out research and analysis that is of substantial use to the work of SELA and its member countries. Among the most relevant contributions, every two years the Department produces a monitoring report on World Population Trends and Policies that analyses current population trends and policies of all the countries and regions of the world, including the States members of SELA. Of particular importance also are the periodic reports on population estimates and projections that include information on population size by age and sex (including the number and proportion of children), growth, mortality, fertility and rural and urban distribution. Recently, the Department published its World Population Policies, a three-volume compilation of population policies that provides detailed information on the measures adopted by Governments around the world. Finally, within the series called "Case-Studies in Population Policy", the Department has also published monographs on Brazil, Haiti and Mexico as well as a case-study on Mexico City for the series on mega-cities.

53. In relation to the important challenge facing the region regarding the integration of national economies into the global market-place in general, in particular in the western hemisphere, the Advisory Services and Training Branch of the Department has been providing the region with technical assistance to promote linkages between national economies and markets abroad. This includes formulating and implementing policies and laws affecting foreign investment, foreign trade and transfer of technology in a way that is consistent with both national development goals and international (market-oriented) trends, and establishing linkages between specific companies

in the region (both State-owned and privately held) and transnational corporations in natural resources, agriculture, manufacturing and services. In that regard, the Department welcomes the opportunity to expand its cooperation with the Latin American region through SELA.

54. With regard to the public and financial management sector, the Department would also welcome the opportunity to broaden cooperation with SELA in matters of common concern, particularly in areas relating to the economic and social development of Latin America. This is particularly the case of the Department's close cooperation and collaboration with other regional entities concerned with the economic and social development of the region, and most notably with the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), which has been assisting Governments in the region to strengthen their capabilities in this regard, through a variety of innovative programmes.

55. In September 1991, the Department participated in the meeting of the Focal Points of Latin America, held at Caracas in conjunction with the SELA Annual Meeting of Directors of Technical Cooperation of Latin America and the Annual Meeting of the Council of Ministers, which the Department also attended. It was the first time the former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat participated in such gatherings. It served to reaffirm its determination to do more in the region in the area of TCDC and to cooperate more closely with SELA.

56. Subsequently, the Department received a request for support for the Information System on TCDC (INFOSELA) data bank, a landmark programme for all countries in the region through which catalogues of national capacities and needs of each member State are produced. Because of the importance and multiplier effect of INFOSELA, the Department is favourably considering supporting the request.

57. SELA and WIPO, together with UNESCO, have continued to cooperate closely in the monitoring and implementation of the recommendations made at the organizational meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Intellectual Property Policies.

58. At the request of SELA, WIPO prepared a study on the importance of the Patent Cooperation Treaty for the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

59. The third meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Intellectual Property Policies was held at SELA headquarters on 20 and 21 July 1992, with the following agenda: (a) general situation and international trends in intellectual property protection (WIPO had been invited to make a contribution on the topic); (b) the Uruguay Round and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights; (c) the interest of the Patent Cooperation Treaty for Latin American and Caribbean countries (the WIPO study on the matter was presented); (d) the possibilities of advancing towards a "Latin American patent system"; and (e) elements for a possible SELA/TCDC programme on industrial property.

60. Under the programme of cooperation between UNIDO and SELA, agreed upon in 1989, the two organizations have consolidated an important advance in inter-agency cooperation, as well as a favourable climate of collaboration and mutual support with regard to industrial and technological development activities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

61. This cooperation was evident in the success of the Regional Conference on Industrialization, held at SELA headquarters from 9 to 11 October 1991, whose main results consisted of the establishment of the Permanent Regional Forum on Industrial and Technological Policy and Integration, and the adoption of the Regional Plan of Action on Industrialization. On this basis, the new inter-agency cooperation agreement is directed towards implementing the decisions taken at the Conference.

62. With regard to cooperation between SELA and UNU, the United Nations University Institute for New Technologies (UNU/INTECH) is launching a study on the role of political factors in technology policies, and is commissioning a number of country studies in various Latin American countries members of SELA during the biennium 1992-1993.

63. With regard to GATT, while it does not have formal relations with SELA, most member States of SELA are contracting parties to the Agreement, except three that are in the process of accession and one that is considering accession.

64. In the framework of its technical cooperation activities, aimed at facilitating the more effective participation of developing countries in the work of GATT and in the Uruguay Round trade negotiations, the GATT secretariat has, inter alia, been providing data on tariffs, non-tariff measures and trade flows, factual background notes and material for the preparation of requests and offers to member countries of SELA.

65. In 1991, as part of its technical cooperation programme, the GATT secretariat organized six national seminars and technical missions on GATT and/or the Uruguay Round in capitals of SELA member States. A seminar on GATT was organized in February 1992 in Ecuador, a country which is considering accession to GATT.

66. Twenty-four officials from member States of SELA participated in a trade policy course in Spanish organized by the GATT secretariat in the first half of 1992.

67. SELA has continued to provide technical support at Geneva to the Latin American and Caribbean delegations participating in the multilateral trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round, in the framework of GATT, including the preparation of a document containing an evaluation of the draft final act of the negotiations, presented by the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee.

68. With respect to IFAD, while it does not cooperate with SELA officially, the Executive Board of IFAD at its thirty-eighth session, held in December 1989, decided to extend an invitation to SELA to attend the Fund's annual Governing Council meetings as an observer. In addition, IFAD is in the process of finalizing a cooperation agreement with SELA that will pave the way for formalized and intensified cooperation. In this context, a draft cooperation agreement was transmitted by IFAD on 3 May 1991 for the consideration of the Permanent Secretary of SELA.

69. FAO has maintained close cooperation with SELA through, inter alia, reciprocal attendance at important meetings, such as the annual meetings of the Latin American Council and SELA-sponsored regional meetings of directors of international technical cooperation and of the Coordination Mechanism for Regional Bodies and Forums Engaged in TCDC Activities.

70. Consultations regarding complementary activities have taken place between FAO and the Executive Secretary of the SELA Action Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America (CADESCA). As a result of these consultations, FAO assisted CADESCA in calculating production costs and producer subsidy equivalents for maize, sorghum, rice and beans. A workshop on the calculation of producer subsidy equivalents of basic grains in Central America and Panama, sponsored jointly by FAO and CADESCA, was held at CADESCA headquarters at Panama City from 17 to 28 January 1991. The workshop was aimed at standardizing the methodology to be utilized for the calculations. FAO has prepared a document entitled "Methodological Notes for the Description of Agricultural Support Policies, the Elaboration of Production Costs and the Calculation of Producer Subsidy Equivalents for Selected Agricultural Commodities".

71. On completion of national studies on producer subsidy equivalents, a preliminary regional report for Central America and Panama was submitted for discussion to the Joint FAO/CADESCA Round Table on Basic Grains Producer Subsidy Equivalents and their Implications for Agricultural Policy Harmonization in Central America and Panama, held at Guatemala City from 19 to 21 June 1991. FAO prepared a document entitled "Production Costs and Producer Subsidy Equivalents of Basic Grains in Central America and Panama" for the round table.

72. Another example of cooperation between FAO and CADESCA was the preparation of a study on how basic foodstuffs are marketed in rural areas of Central America and Panama. Six national studies were commissioned by FAO and a regional study on Central America and Panama was commissioned by CADESCA. The regional study served as the basic document for discussion at the round table, sponsored jointly by FAO and CADESCA, on case-studies on how basic foodstuffs are marketed in rural areas of Central America and Panama, held at Panama City from 30 to 31 October 1991. A comprehensive report, including the national reports, will be issued in 1992.

73. FAO/SELA cooperation in the area of food policy and nutrition has also taken place through their collaboration with CADESCA. The Committee provided

logistical support and background material on food security to the workshops on management and analysis of data on food consumption for food and nutrition surveillances, held in Costa Rica in 1991 as part of a FAO regional project.

74. In the framework of the integration of regional and subregional free trade agreements, FAO is currently providing assistance to Central American countries in order to strengthen their food control programmes as a means of contributing to the region's economic development and integration and reducing non-tariff barriers aimed at controlling the cholera epidemic. Similar projects are being implemented in Peru and other Latin American and Caribbean countries. In September 1992, FAO will initiate a project, to be financed by UNDP, to strengthen food standardization and food import/export control in the framework of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR).

75. FAO strongly supports the proposed decision on sanitary and phytosanitary measures under the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations, which will give effect to the use of Codex Alimentarius standards, guidelines and recommendations in international food trade. All member countries of SELA, except Paraguay, are members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The adoption of Codex standards by the countries of the region would support SELA efforts for economic integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

76. In the area of prevention and control of food contamination, FAO, in cooperation with UNEP, is developing two subregional networks for the monitoring of food contaminants, especially pesticide residues, in Central and South America. Centres located in Guatemala and Brazil have been strengthened to act as subregional clearing-houses for the monitoring of these contaminants. This activity is being carried out within the framework of the joint FAO/UNEP/WHO food contamination and assessment programme and would contribute to the environmental management activities of SELA.

77. FAO and SELA are planning to cooperate in the establishment of a fertilizer information network for Latin America and the Caribbean that could be patterned on a successful FAO-sponsored regional network in Asia.

78. With respect to the World Bank and IMF, SELA has participated in the regular semi-annual meetings of the Group of Twenty-four, the Development Committee and the Interim Committee.

79. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA was represented at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

III. CONCLUSION

80. As evidenced by the information contained in the present report, the meeting between the SELA secretariat and the United Nations Secretariat that resulted in the signing of a reciprocal cooperation agreement has had the effect of strengthening collaboration between the two entities.

81. The agreement has spurred new cooperation activities, which have included some United Nations bodies that had not previously cooperated with SELA.

82. As indicated in the present report, an essential aspect of the work is being carried out through cooperation between ECLAC and SELA. These two organizations share various areas of endeavour, their activities are regional in scope and they carry out complementary tasks.

83. Notwithstanding, it is important to stress that the cooperation of SELA with United Nations programmes, organizations and agencies is becoming increasingly broad and diversified and, in many areas, is operating through inter-agency cooperation, which is helping to optimize existing resources for the benefit of the countries of the region.